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CIA REPORTS ON QUIZZING OF POWERS

Data Are Released By
Senate, House
Committees

Washington, March 6 (AP)—A summary report on the questioning by the Central Intelligence Agency of Francis Gary Powers, released today by the Senate and House Armed Services Committees:

Since his return from imprisonment by Soviet Russia, Francis Gary Powers has undergone a most intensive debriefing by CIA and other intelligence specialists, aeronautical technicians, and other experts concerned with the U-2 program. He was proficient both as a flier and as a navigator and showed himself calm in emergency situations.

His security background has been exhaustively reviewed, and any circumstances which might conceivably have led to pressure from or defection to the Russians have also been exhaustively reviewed, and no evidence has been found to support any theory that failure of his flight might be laid to Soviet espionage activities. The same is true of the possibilities of sabotage.

Gruelling Task

Accordingly, Mr. Powers was assigned to the mission that eventually occurred on 1 May, 1960, and accepted the assignment willingly.

It was a particularly gruelling assignment across the heart of Soviet Russia and ending on the northwest coast of Norway. It was necessary to maintain extreme altitude at heights at which no other plane but the U-2 had steadily flown. So far as can be ascertained, Mr. Powers followed the scheduled flight plan, making a prescribed turn to the northwest when nearing the city of Sverdlovsk where he was directly on course.

According to his statement, he had settled on his new course and had Sverdlovsk in sight, perhaps 20 or 30 miles away, when he felt a push or feeling of acceleration on the plane accompanied by a dull noise unlike the sharp

below at this time since the automatic mechanism was set for this height.

In connection with Powers's efforts to operate the destruct switches, it should be noted that the basic weight limitations kept the explosive charge to 2 1/4 pounds and the purpose of the destruct mechanism was to render inoperable the precision camera and other equipment, not to destroy them and the film. After he landed he was taken by commercial plane to Moscow the same day.

In the processing into the prison he was given a hypodermic injection which may well have been a general immunization, and there is no evidence of the use of truth serums or other drugs. From then until the time of the trial, about 100 days, he was kept in solitary confinement and subjected to constant interrogation, sometimes as long as ten or twelve hours a day, but on the average considerably less than this.

He had no access to anyone but his Russian guards and interrogators despite repeated requests for contact with the United States Embassy or his family and friends.

Questions Parried

He states that the interrogation was not intense in the sense of physical violence or severe hostile methods, and that in some respects he was able to resist answering specific questions. As an example, his interrogators were interested in the names of

board a question was raised as to the accuracy of one of his statements, he volunteered with some vehemence that, although he disliked the process of the polygraph, he would like to undergo a polygraph test.

Powers Examined

That test was subsequently duly administered by an expert and in it he was examined on all of the factual phases which the board considered critical in this inquiry. The report by the polygraph operator is that he displayed no indications of deviation from the truth in the course of that examination.

In the fifth place, a study of the photograph of the debris of the plane and other information concerning the plane revealed in the opinion of experts making the study no condition which suggested an inconsistency with Powers's account of what had transpired.

The board noted the testimony of Russian witnesses at the trial in Moscow which dealt with the descent and capture of Powers and with technical features of the plane and the incident. The testimony was consistent with the account given by Powers.

Powers was able to identify a spot near a small village where he thought he had landed. This location checked with prior testimony given by Powers as to physical features, directions, and distances and also corresponded with earlier independent information not known to Powers that certainly of the persons who can

Committee, Larry Houston, attorney, sits on Powers's left.

Power had lived in this same small village.

Some information from confidential sources was available. Some of it corroborated Powers and some of it was inconsistent with Powers's story, but the which was inconsistent was in part contradictory with itself and subject to various interpretations.

Some of this information was the basis for considerable speculation shortly after the May episode and subsequent stories in the press that Powers's plane descended gradually from its altitude and had been

even

